

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 MCT-01 /059 W
-----312333Z 006884 /14J

R 311515Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4950
INFO AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL NAPLES

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IT
SUBJECT: TRIAL OF "BORGHESE COUP: PARTICIPANTS OPENS IN ROME

1. ON MAY 30 IN ROME THE TRIAL BEGAN OF 77 DEFENDANTS
ACCUSED OF PARTICIPATION IN AN UNSUCCESSFUL COUP ATTEMPT IN
1970 AND OTHER CRIMES ATTRIBUTED TO THE NEO-FACIST
LEADER OF THE PLOT, PRINCE JUNIO VALERIO BORGHESE, DIED
IN SPAIN IN 1974 AND THE MOST PROMINENT DEFENDANT NOW IS
GENERAL VITO MICELI, FORMER CHIEF OF ITALIAN
INTELLIGENCE (SID) AND CURRENTLY AN MSI DEPUTY, WHO
IS CHARGED WITH FAILING TO REPORT HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE
PLOT TO HIS SUPERIORS. ALSO PRESENT, THOUGH SO ILL THAT
HE HAD TO BE CARRIED IN ON A STRETCHER, WAS COL. LUCIANO
BERTI, AN EX-HEAD OF THE NATIONAL FOREST RANGERS WHO IS
SAID TO HAVE BEEN TASKED WITH SEIZING THE HEADQUARTERS
OF THE NATIONAL RADIO AND TELEVISION NETWORK (RAI) ON THE NIGHT
OF THE COUP ATTEMPT. MANY OF THE ACCUSED HAVE FLED OVERSEAS
OR ARE IN HIDING (TWO HAVE BEEN JAILED IN SPAIN ON CHARGES
OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY), AND ONLY 28 OF THE 77 DEFENDANTS
WERE IN COURT THE FIRST DAY. NEARLY 150 LAWYERS WERE ON HAND
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FOR THE DEFENSE, HOWEVER, AND IT IS CLEAR THAT THEY INTEND TO
USE A VARIETY OF DELAYING TACTICS TO MAKE THE TRIAL DRAG
ON AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.

2. IN THE PAST, ACCUSATIONS OF CIA INVOLVEMENT WITH THE
BORGHESE PLOTTERS BASED ON ALLEGED LEAKS FROM THE PIKE
COMMITTEE WHICH REPORT COVERT PAYMENTS FROM FORMER US AM-

BASSADOR MARTIN TO GENERAL MICELI HAVE APPEARED IN THE
ITALIAN PRESS. SUCH ALLEGATIONS ARE LIKELY TO BE REKINDLED
BY THE OPENING OF THE TRIAL.GARDNER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, TRIALS, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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